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UNFPA INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMME, 1996-1999

Report of the Executive Director

This report contains the proposed UNFPA intercountry programme for 1996-1999, which is composed of the interregional programme and the regional programmes for sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States and Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Table 1 on page 3 of the report provides a breakdown of the proposed allocations among these five programmes. The proposed programme is presented according to the three core areas approved by the Executive Board in decision 95/15: reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy. Proposed activities in each of the core areas are given for the interregional programme and for the regional programmes. A review of the Fund's intercountry programme for 1992-1995 is provided in the addendum to this report.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. As stated by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in resolution 1763 (LIV) of 1973 and reaffirmed by ECOSOC in resolution 1986/7 of 1986 and by the Governing Council in decision 93/27, UNFPA's aims and purposes are, inter alia: "to build up, on an international basis . . . the knowledge and the capacity to respond to national, regional, interregional, and global needs in the population and family planning fields" and "to promote awareness, both in developed and in developing countries, of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems".

2. An important objective of the proposed intercountry programme is to strengthen the ability of developing countries to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and especially the principal goals of providing universal access to reproductive health and family planning services; reducing infant, child and maternal mortality; providing access to primary education for all girls and boys; and achieving gender equity and equality.

3. In order to implement the Programme of Action, UNFPA is currently involved in a rigorous consultative process to develop new strategic approaches for its programme. UNFPA will focus its support at all levels, including the intercountry level, on: (a) reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health (hereinafter referred to as reproductive health); (b) population and development strategies; and (c) advocacy.

4. As with its predecessors, the proposed intercountry programme is based on the realization that certain activities are relevant to and concern all regions of the world and that undertaking such activities at the interregional or regional levels is both more efficient and more cost-effective than undertaking them at the national level. The primary concern of these interregional and regional activities is to meet the needs of developing countries for information, research, new technologies and protocols, training materials, technical guidelines and standards, and research methodologies in the area of population and development.

5. Under the proposed programme, UNFPA would continue to support important activities that have been initiated and fruitfully developed and implemented in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and with governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during earlier cycles of the programme (see, e.g., the addendum to this report). These include the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s; the Global Programme of Training in Population and Sustainable Development; the WHO Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (WHO/HRP); and the International Committee for Contraceptive Research. The Fund would also continue to support numerous activities at the interregional and regional levels in the area of technical support and dissemination of population analyses, many of which are detailed in this report. The Fund's Technical Support Services (TSS) and Country Support Teams (CSTs) would continue to play an important role in adapting and applying the outputs of projects at the interregional and regional levels to the national level (see document DP/1995/40, which is also being submitted to the Executive Board at its third regular session of 1995).

6. A priority of the intercountry programme would be to assist activities aimed specifically at improving the status of women and facilitating their empowerment. Gender concerns would thus be mainstreamed into all programme activities, the ultimate goal being to integrate such concerns fully into all population and development activities. Therefore, gender is treated not as a separate sector in the proposed programme but as a cross-sectoral issue cutting through all the proposed activities.

7. Care has been taken in the proposed intercountry programme to build on the lessons learned in previous programmes and to incorporate the results of reviews and evaluations conducted in the 1992-1995 programme cycle. As in the case of earlier cycles, most of the activities of the proposed programme would be implemented by other organizations, including United Nations agencies and organizations as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations. UNFPA would monitor and evaluate activities at both the interregional and regional levels, in compliance with standard UNFPA procedures, including mid-cycle reviews, annual thematic evaluations and programme audits.

8. The Executive Director proposes to allocate $175.0 million (15.8 per cent of programmable resources) for the intercountry programme during 1996-1999. Of this amount, $102.0 million would be provided for the interregional programme and $73.0 million for the regional programmes: $28.0 million for sub-Saharan Africa, $12.0 million for the Arab States and Europe, $19.0 million for Asia and the Pacific, and $14.0 million for Latin America and the Caribbean. Table 1 shows the proposed distribution of funds for the interregional and regional programmes by programme area.

Table 1. UNFPA INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMME BY PROGRAMME AREA, 1996-1999
($ millions)

Programmes	Programme areas			
	Reproductive health	Population & development strategies	Advocacy	Total
Interregional	45.0	28.0	29.0	102.0
Regional				
Sub-Saharan Africa	14.0	7.0	7.0	28.0
Arab States and Europe	7.0	4.0	1.0	12.0
Asia and the Pacific	10.0	6.0	3.0	19.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	8.0	4.0	2.0	14.0
Subtotal	39.0	21.0	13.0	73.0
Grand total	84.0	49.0	42.0	175.0

II. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

A. Interregional programme

9. The 1992-1995 intercountry programme gained much valuable experience and had achievements in several areas, including: (a) contraceptive research and development, and the introduction and adaptation of new contraceptives; (b) increased awareness of adolescent reproductive health needs; (c) more focused attention on high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity; (d) development of guidelines and standards for family planning and contraceptive technology; and (e) support for technical cooperation among developing countries.

10. The objectives of the proposed interregional programme in the area of reproductive health are: (a) to conduct research on and develop new and improved methods of fertility regulation, and to continue to assure that such methods are safe; (b) to develop guidelines, methodologies and operational approaches to strengthen reproductive health programmes and services; (c) to develop and test feasible and cost-effective reproductive health interventions for application at the primary health-care level; and (d) to promote the concept of reproductive health as an overall approach to the health and well-being of women, men and adolescents. Two of the specific goals of the ICPD Programme of Action have guided the formulation of this programme, namely: "all countries should strive to make accessible through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible, and no later than the year 2015" (para. 7.6); and "countries should strive to effect significant reductions in maternal mortality by the year 2015" (para. 8.21).

11. Achieving these goals means developing, introducing and disseminating practical and cost-effective interventions that will have a positive impact on reproductive health at an affordable price. These include new technologies, new operational approaches, new managerial strategies, and improvements in the training of service providers.

1. Developing guidelines, methodologies and operational approaches

12. A major goal of the interregional programme is to facilitate the design of community-specific and appropriate programmes to address the reproductive health needs of clients in developing countries. UNFPA would therefore continue to support the development of guidelines, methodologies and approaches for: (a) assessing reproductive health needs; (b) analysing the reproductive health situation, including human resources, infrastructure and management; and (c) developing reproductive health indicators and techniques for monitoring and evaluating both quantitative and qualitative achievements of programmes.

13. New and revised technical guidelines will deal with specific aspects of reproductive health, such as family planning methods; maternal care; the prevention and management of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including reproductive tract infections and HIV/AIDS; management of the complications of abortion; prevention and appropriate management of infertility; and prevention, early detection and management of other reproductive health conditions, such as breast cancer.

14. As part of the proposed intercountry programme, UNFPA would continue its support for activities under the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s by funding the Initiative's Secretariat, consisting of two professional and one support staff, over the next four years. This proposal is being made in response to the Executive Board's request as contained in paragraph 2 of decision 95/21 and follows its decision 94/19 which authorized the continuation of the work of the Secretariat, through the use of project funds, for a two-year period. (For a discussion of the proposal for the continuation of the Global Initiative as well as an outline of the objectives, modalities and procedures for a possible future global contraceptive arrangement, see document DP/1995/62.)

15. The interregional programme would work to improve reproductive health services for women in refugee camps, internally displaced persons, and returnees through the institution of an Office of the Emergency Relief Adviser. A symposium conducted in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1995, inter alia, defined basic reproductive health needs for women in these situations, examined ways and means of assessing their reproductive health needs, and proposed appropriate instruments for developing clinical and counselling services to meet identified needs. The proposed programme would support the cost of running a secretariat for the Office of the Emergency Relief Adviser consisting of one professional and a secretary to manage the implementation of these activities.

16. Several other new operational approaches are foreseen under the proposed programme. These include, for example, research on the extent to which emergency obstetric care can be incorporated in primary health-care service delivery and the development of new approaches to involve men, particularly young men and male adolescents, fully in reproductive health efforts. Initiatives begun under the previous intercountry programme to identify and develop feasible and effective approaches to meet the reproductive health needs of adolescents would be continued in the new programme. UNFPA would continue its support for strengthening community participation and self-reliance in the development of reproductive health information and services through NGOs such as, for example, the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP).

2. Training

17. In the area of training, UNFPA would continue to support the development of curricula, methodologies and prototype materials in reproductive health that are designed to improve the technical and communication skills of service providers. A collateral activity would be to continue to maintain and update the database of institutions offering training in reproductive health.

18. A new UNFPA-supported programme to promote South-South cooperation has as an initial objective that of strengthening the capacities of four countries -- Mexico, Indonesia, Thailand and Tunisia -- to provide assistance to other countries in the area of reproductive health. The countries selected have shown impressive progress in the implementation of their own population programmes. Activities considered for funding under this programme include: increasing the capacity of the four countries to train trainees from other developing countries; helping training institutions to make

educational support and other information materials available to others; promoting the production and marketing of reproductive health-related equipment; and organizing exchange programmes to assess the role of the private sector in reproductive health activities.

3. Research, development and testing

19. Another key activity over the next four years would be to continue to support research and development of new and improved methods of fertility regulation. Specific methods being investigated include female-controlled barrier methods, methods for men and for adolescents, and contraceptives with anti-STD and anti-HIV properties. To this end, UNFPA would continue support to WHO/HRP, which is co-sponsored by UNFPA along with WHO, the World Bank and UNDP. UNFPA would also continue support to the International Committee for Contraceptive Research at The Population Council.

20. UNFPA would provide limited support for ongoing research on other reproductive health interventions such as the development of cost-effective diagnostic tests for symptomatic and asymptomatic STDs and for the development of new, cost-effective methods to prevent and treat STDs and reproductive tract infections.

21. UNFPA will continue to support HIV/AIDS prevention activities by incorporating them into ongoing information and service delivery projects at the country level. At the global level, UNFPA will continue as a co-sponsor of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and proposes to provide the joint programme with support for two professional staff, including their duty travel, and for such information dissemination activities as the biennial report on HIV/AIDS, which UNFPA had been supporting at the HIV/AIDS Task Force, the predecessor of the joint programme.

4. Advocacy

22. In promoting the application of reproductive health as an overall approach to the health and well-being of women, men and adolescents, UNFPA will continue to work with many partners in the area of advocacy. These include WHO, the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO), the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Task Force for Child Survival and Development, and The Population Council. UNFPA support would include funding workshops, conferences, publications and information dissemination activities.

23. UNFPA will promote women's rights within the context of reproductive rights through collaborative activities with UNIFEM. The Fund will support UNIFEM's initiatives in the areas of human rights, including working to combat violence against women, eliminate traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, and eliminate discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. The collaboration between the two organizations will include work on revising and updating existing reporting guidelines to include indicators that reflect an analysis of reproductive health as a human rights issue. This will include helping to improve the capacity of selected NGOs to monitor the implementation of international agreements, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women. UNFPA would also support a meeting of researchers, policy makers and advocates of women's rights whose aim would be to develop a comprehensive strategy and women's rights programme, including areas for research, to complement the Fund's reproductive health and women's empowerment goals.

5. IEC activities in support of reproductive health

24. In the framework of reproductive health, UNFPA's support for information, education and communications (IEC) interventions will be guided by the following objectives: (a) to disseminate research findings on how IEC activities can best support reproductive health programmes; (b) to develop and disseminate new methodologies for communicating with key audiences, including adolescents, about sexuality and reproduction; (c) to exchange experiences, materials and human resources among training programmes in various regions of the world; and (d) to strengthen the intellectual base for population education by working with UNESCO in the faculties of education of key universities around the world.

25. UNFPA will collaborate with organizations such as WHO/HRP and The Population Council to develop and disseminate IEC audience research protocols, training guides and research findings. The Fund will also collaborate with WHO to spread methodologies developed in the previous programme cycle for analysing adolescent attitudes and for informing adolescents about reproductive health and sexuality. A series of training activities and publications will facilitate the transfer of knowledge to the country level. UNFPA will collaborate closely with national ministries, national and international NGOs and other organizations, such as UNICEF, that deal directly with adolescents. The Fund will support IEC activities aimed at mobilizing young people to serve as peer educators and advocates of reproductive health and will continue to assist appropriate agencies and organizations in developing population education materials to meet the needs of rural youth.

B. Regional programmes

26. The regional programmes proposed in the area of reproductive health will consist primarily of three types of activities: training, research, and advocacy. There is a need to reorient all training to a reproductive health approach, and many of the regional training centres will be contributing to the development of prototype curricula, training materials and new teaching methods. Research will focus on the use of standard protocols that, when applied in a limited number of countries, can generate lessons for the region or subregion as a whole. Advocacy activities will concentrate on both creating a better understanding of the concept of reproductive health and putting that concept into practice. Finally, many approaches developed at the global level are now ready for application at the country level, including, for example, new approaches to adolescent reproductive health. However, these global models will need to be adapted to the specific environment in which they will be applied.

1. Sub-Saharan Africa

27. The primary contribution of the 1992-1995 Africa regional programme in the area of reproductive health lay in increasing the availability of clinical personnel trained in family planning

service delivery. Relatively little support was provided to reproductive health research. Reviews of the past regional programme as well as appraisals of country programmes point to the need to reorient regional clinical training to a broader reproductive health focus and to strengthen the courses for trainers and managers on certain topics.

28. The previous regional programme began activities in IEC through regional training for English speakers at the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC) in Nairobi. Given the centrality of IEC to the success of reproductive health programmes in the region, experience suggests several modifications in future regional activities. First, regional training should provide skills required for promotion of reproductive health services rather than for family planning alone and should also devote greater attention to concepts and techniques for mobilizing community support. Second, a comparable programme should be developed for French and Portuguese speakers. Third, support should be provided to conduct the social research required to make IEC and reproductive health services culturally responsive and acceptable. Fourth, a more systematic approach to the production and dissemination of mass media IEC materials should be explored. Finally, the Fund needs to conduct regional seminars and workshops aimed at speeding up the introduction of population education and family life education into school systems and at sharing appropriate materials. The aim of these efforts would be to assist countries in meeting the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action concerning access to reproductive health services, in tailoring such services to African needs and in promoting sustainability of service delivery networks and the installation of required management systems.

29. Training. To help implement these modifications, UNFPA would support the training of trainers at the regional level in reorienting clinical skills to cover reproductive health as well as family planning. One possible site for such a regional centre would be the Mauritius Institute of Health, which could accommodate both English and French speakers. Reproductive health training in Portuguese would be strengthened and supported on a rotating basis among the five African lusophone countries. Some key management dimensions that cut across countries, and thus justify regional training, include the need to improve the quality of services; develop services attractive to males as well as females; enhance supervision; strengthen logistics management; and improve the coordination of government, NGO and private-sector efforts. UNFPA would support management training with partners such as the Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS), the Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development (CERPOD), and Laval and Montreal Universities, which would transfer their courses to an appropriate site in West Africa. As a part of the effort to include grassroots NGOs and community-based organizations, UNFPA would support special training for regional networks of such organizations that have relatively little management experience.

30. The Fund would continue to provide assistance for regional training in IEC in programme management, strategy formulation, audience research and message creation, as well as in the development and testing of materials. The curricula at the two centres expected to continue to host such training -- KIMC in Nairobi and the Centre for Communications and Research Studies (CERCOM) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire -- would be structured to promote reproductive health rather than family planning alone. In addition to the use of CST members, the programme would encourage the use of staff in these institutes for conducting specialized courses at the country level.

31. Research. The design of reproductive health services, and of IEC and advocacy efforts, in sub-Saharan Africa needs to be based on, for example, more extensive research on traditional practices such as female genital mutilation; on attitudes affecting receptivity to reproductive health; on use of traditional communications systems; and on reactions to various message presentations. The regional programme therefore would support such organizations as the Pan African Association of Anthropologists and the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in these areas of research. UNFPA would also support multi-country operations research on such issues as the impact of cost recovery on use of services and the effectiveness of different logistics modalities. The Fund would also collaborate with WHO and the World Bank in the Better Health for Africa initiative, which will be assessing national health systems.

2. Arab States and Europe

Arab States

32. While there have been significant improvements in the health status of the population in the Arab States, maternal and infant morbidity and mortality remain unacceptably high in many countries, particularly among disadvantaged socio-economic groups in poor rural, urban and peri-urban areas. There are, in addition, rising concerns about the poor knowledge of and the extremely limited information on women's reproductive morbidity, including STDs, reproductive tract infections, uterine prolapse and HIV/AIDS.

33. In many countries of the region, the information systems and skills required to adequately forecast the needs for basic drugs, contraceptives and equipment for reproductive health are often inadequate, as are supply and distribution systems. In addition, in most cases there is no established system to monitor the performance and to assess the impact of reproductive health services and programmes. Institutional capacity at national and regional levels for training service delivery staff in reproductive health is weak to non-existent, in particular in the least developed countries.

34. The involvement of communities, including women's groups and NGOs, in adapting health and reproductive health services to the needs of these communities has not been systematically encouraged. This has led to low awareness, especially among the poorer, less-educated segments of the population, of the actions that they could take themselves to improve their health status, including their reproductive health.

35. Training. In order to strengthen the management and improve the quality of reproductive health services and programmes, UNFPA would assist in conducting situation analyses of reproductive health in the region, including investigation of reproductive morbidity, through the organization of a series of regional training workshops. The situation analyses produced would be used to help develop national action plans for improving the management of reproductive health programmes. The data collected would help in establishing and developing management information systems (MIS) at the country level. The Population Council's Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt, would implement the project.

36. A regional training programme for trainers in the management of reproductive health programmes would be developed under the proposed programme. This training programme would include modules on the reproductive health approach within the framework of primary health care; the development and application of a management information system; logistics and supply management; and techniques in client/service-provider interaction.

37. UNFPA would continue its assistance to the International Centre for Population and Research at Al-Azhar University in Cairo in order to reinforce the Centre's crucial role in ensuring that IEC materials and curricula are sensitive to and reflect an Islamic perspective. UNFPA would also encourage collaboration between Al-Azhar and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Morocco to ensure a larger and more effective dissemination and integration of materials produced at Al-Azhar in training programmes in the Arab States.

38. Research. UNFPA would support the further analysis of existing data from, for example, the Pan Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD) and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in order to better understand the underlying causes of the gap between the knowledge and use of modern contraception in the Arab States; the sociocultural determinants of Arab men's attitudes and behaviours vis-à-vis family planning and women's reproductive health; and the reasons why the reproductive health needs of adolescents are not being met.

39. Advocacy. UNFPA would continue to support advocacy activities for reproductive health through a number of channels, including the International NGO Working Group on Refugee Women, which advocates the culturally appropriate treatment of refugee women in the Arab world, including their access to adequate reproductive health services.

Europe

40. In general, the technical assistance provided through the 1992-1995 regional programme turned out to be especially important for countries with economies in transition. One of the lessons learned was that, given the similarity of their problems in the area of population, these countries can be reached effectively through regional activities. Such activities would therefore continue to reinforce and complement country activities during the course of the proposed programme.

41. Contraceptive prevalence rates in the countries with economies in transition remain very low, and induced abortion is still the principal means of fertility regulation and reduction. In some countries, the lack of sex education in the presence of changing social and moral values has led to an increase in teen-age pregnancies. Many countries report increasing rates of STDs, including HIV infection. There is also a lack of research on women's reproductive health status. In addition, many countries still lack a reliable database on reproductive health and related issues.

42. Training. Under the proposed programme, four regional training courses for trainers would be organized yearly at the University Medical School of Debrecen, Hungary, to train medical and paramedical personnel from the countries with economies in transition in reproductive health service

delivery, quality of care and counselling skills. In addition, UNFPA would continue to collaborate with and provide support to WHO and pertinent international NGOs in organizing customized training workshops and seminars.

43. Research. UNFPA would support regional research to assist the countries of central and eastern Europe and the newly independent states in shifting from abortion to contraception as the principal method of family planning. Further assistance would be provided to the Population Activity Unit of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to assist the countries with economies in transition in conducting an in-depth analysis and research programme based on existing fertility and family survey data and a limited number of reproductive health surveys. The findings of the surveys would be widely disseminated and used for formulating reproductive health policies and programmes.

3. Asia and the Pacific

44. The Asia and Pacific regional programme in the area of reproductive health is aimed at meeting regional needs in training, research and advocacy in a cost-effective manner. After having assessed what these needs are, the strategy would be to identify the appropriate mechanisms to address such needs, to adapt methodologies developed at the global level to the regional and country level, and to strengthen the capacities of the institutions that undertake these tasks.

45. Training. There is a continuing need in the Asia and Pacific region to train health-care professionals in the delivery of reproductive health services in the context of the primary health-care systems, including training in quality of care, family planning counselling, IEC, safe delivery and post-natal care, and detection of STDs and HIV/AIDS. Medical practitioners also need to be continually provided with updated information. A regional NGO, the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, has been identified as a suitable institution for carrying out this training.

46. The issue of quality of care is a major focus for many countries in the region, especially in countries that have "mature" population programmes. Progress towards improving quality of care will be achieved through regional workshops where participating countries can assess, diagnose and prepare action plans to improve quality at the national level. These regional workshops will be organized in collaboration with such organizations as the International Council on Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP).

47. There is a critical need to enhance the role of national NGOs in efforts to extend the outreach of population programmes. UNFPA plans to support activities to assess the capacities of these NGOs, as well as to examine their objectives and strategies, in order to develop action plans to strengthen the delivery of reproductive health programmes and to help empower women. In order to promote partnership with national NGOs in efforts to enhance sustainable, community-based reproductive health programmes, UNFPA would seek to strengthen local networks and women's organizations through support to management training, making use of the expertise provided by such regional training institutions as ICOMP and the Indian Institute of Health Management Research.

48. Research. A main concern of UNFPA's programme in reproductive health is the question of gender relations. UNFPA would seek the assistance of agencies, universities and research institutions to conduct sociocultural research on the effects of gender relations on family planning programmes. UNFPA's interregional programme has supported research activities in the reproductive health needs of adolescents for many years. The methodologies in education and counselling, training curricula, and service delivery guidelines that the programme has helped to develop would be adapted to countries in the Asia and Pacific region. UNFPA would identify an appropriate international NGO to strengthen advocacy work in the area of gender relations and to implement these activities.

49. Advocacy. UNFPA would support awareness-creation and regional information activities to promote greater access to the widest range of safe and effective family planning methods. Further, IEC efforts would address such priority concerns as adolescent health, STDs and HIV/AIDS, male involvement, and gender equality. The Regional Clearing House on Population Education and Communication based at UNESCO's regional office in Bangkok would continue to receive support for this work. Additionally, assistance would be provided to such organizations as JOICFP to adapt and distribute IEC materials aimed at strengthening the delivery of reproductive health services at the community level.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

50. Reproductive health care is at the centre of the regional programme for Latin America and the Caribbean. The immediate objectives of the programme, to be achieved by the end of 1999, are: (a) to clarify and promote the concept of reproductive health across countries so as to strengthen national programmes; (b) to study the existing institutional arrangements for reproductive health care services in the countries of the region and to recommend appropriate organizational restructuring that would permit the most effective and efficient provision of such services; (c) to gain knowledge of how national programmes respond to the needs of women and adolescents and to make recommendations to improve them; and (d) to support innovative multi-country action projects to permit the countries of the region to benefit from the exchange of experiences and knowledge. The strategy to address these concerns will favour the involvement of NGOs and grassroots groups, particularly women's and youth organizations. Collaboration with key partners in the United Nations system, in particular with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) of WHO, will be looked at in the light of the ICPD to ensure that cooperative activities help clarify and promote the concept of reproductive health.

51. Research. A narrow range of contraceptive methods is used in most of the countries of the region, and in several countries there is a very high use of surgical contraception. This has led to a generalized but unsubstantiated perception of wrongdoing regarding women's health and rights. A regional project to understand why women resort to surgical contraception is designed to yield the information needed to undertake a regional education and information campaign and, at the country level, to support the method mix that best meets users' preferences. This would entail providing adequate training to health professionals in providing these methods.

52. Regional and subregional evaluations of ongoing reproductive health programmes supported by IPPF, which were started during the previous programme, would continue. In conjunction with reproductive health services provided under Ministries of Health, complementary studies would be undertaken of NGO programmes addressing the reproductive health needs of women's and other groups, including needs in the areas of sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention. The results would assist national NGOs in implementing service delivery programmes.

53. Training. Within the normative framework set by WHO/PAHO, curricula and teaching methodologies would be reoriented towards a comprehensive reproductive health approach by twinning less-developed teaching centres in the region with more advanced centres. The regional programme would support the conduct of situational analyses in the possible recipient countries as well as studies of the areas in which the countries offering their services have the greatest comparative advantages.

54. Advocacy. The regional programme would take advantage of economies of scale by encouraging the sharing of materials across groups of countries and the use of mass media. The programme would support the development of IEC strategies and materials, such as soap operas and public-service television clips, for use in policy support and to create demand for reproductive health services. IEC activities in support of reproductive health would address the needs of special population groups across the region, including working with the ILO to reach both men and women workers and with Advocates for Youth to monitor youth programmes and improve evaluation techniques.

III. POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

A. Interregional programme

55. The ICPD Programme of Action has increased the demand for statistical data and extended the scope and coverage needed. The implications are far-reaching. There is an urgent need to ensure that currently available information is valid, reliable and timely, but there is also a demand for data in a whole range of new substantive areas, such as reproductive health, empowerment of women, and gender equity, among others. There is a need for data at subnational levels as well. Technological changes also have far-reaching implications for the collection, processing, dissemination and utilization of data.

56. Effective policy formulation requires a sound knowledge base concerning the links between population and development as well as the transmission of this knowledge to policy makers. New but rather tentative investigations indicate that population growth may be detrimental to economic growth and development. There is a need for better understanding of the relationships in question, especially in light of new development paradigms that put a high premium on sustainability, carrying capacity and environmental accounting.

57. Over the last decade or so a considerable number of developing countries have achieved important reductions in both mortality and fertility levels. The consequences of these demographic changes are potentially profound, and their social and economic implications must be fully understood in order to help other developing countries anticipate any negative implications.

1. Research and development of methodologies

58. UNFPA would provide support for developing methodologies for monitoring and assessing reproductive health programmes, once the components of the concept of reproductive health are clearly defined. These methods and techniques would entail developing procedures for combining existing data from different sources and from different locations and then disseminating the combined information. The new indicators that are developed would thus reflect the social and cultural conditions of many different countries. UNFPA has already initiated preliminary activities to establish a global framework for assessing and monitoring reproductive health activities. Efforts would be made to expand the applicability of the survey methodology to measure reproductive health variables in conjunction with other statistical information systems such as vital registration records.

59. The Fund would support the development of appropriate manuals for different types of data collection activities and would assist countries in adapting these manuals to suit their specific needs. This would include developing and testing instruments and protocols, and training national staff accordingly. This programme in reproductive health surveys and analysis would be implemented with the assistance of internationally recognized academic institutions, research centres, NGOs involved in reproductive health and relevant United Nations agencies and organizations.

60. The Fund would continue to promote the development and use of new technologies in data collection, processing and dissemination. An interregional programme would be established to cover different aspects of methodological development, such as the use of modern satellite and electronic technology in census and survey methodologies, and to continually assess available software packages for population data processing so as to be able to recommend the optimal system to developing countries. These activities would be carried out by suitable national or international institutions (preferably from developing countries) or by United Nations agencies and organizations.

61. In the area of global data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, UNFPA would build on past achievements, supporting the efforts of organizations such as the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT) and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women to compile and update databases on gender, population and development and to develop indicators that can be used at regional and national levels to monitor changes in the status of women.

62. During the previous intercountry programme, UNFPA began to address the role that population policies play in economic and social development. In the proposed programme, global macro- and micro-level research will focus on population-economic linkages, primarily on those that have hitherto received insufficient attention. These include, among others, the effects of population growth and high fertility on children's and women's education and health; the implications for poverty and income distribution of rapid population growth; and the relations between population growth, sustainable economic development and the environment. In this programme of research, efforts will be made to link national development research institutions and distinguished institutions from other regions in collaborative research activities.

63. Another research area with important implications for population priorities and strategies concerns the determination of key factors affecting the demand for family planning services. UNFPA would support studies into the relative importance of socio-economic factors (e.g., education) vis-à-vis programming factors (e.g., IEC activities) in determining the level of demand for reproductive health services. Especially important in formulating and implementing population policies is the ability to integrate social data into national accounts. UNFPA would therefore continue to support the activities of UNSTAT to develop general criteria for integrating social and population dimensions into national accounts.

64. Current understanding of the interaction between population and environmental variables is deficient. Policy-relevant research supported by UNFPA would include: (a) studies to develop adequate methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks that take environmental concerns into account; (b) research on the interaction between the capacity and sustainability of agricultural lands, taking into account, among other things, food-security and gender issues; and (c) policy-relevant research on the relationship between population growth and distribution, environmental degradation and poverty. Collaboration would be sought with United Nations agencies and organizations, pertinent NGOs and national institutions in both developing and developed countries.

65. Working with such potential collaborators as the United Nations Statistical Division, the ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and relevant university centres, UNFPA would support the development of methodologies aimed at gaining a more systematic knowledge of international migration in developing countries. Changes in internal population distribution, particularly urbanization, are also very important. The Fund would contribute to the preparatory activities for the HABITAT II conference, scheduled for June 1996, by sponsoring a scientific symposium on these topics in collaboration with one or more noted research centres. UNFPA would support research to investigate the growing phenomenon of environmental migrants, in which people are forced to leave their land because of environmental degradation, which has important implications for poverty, unintended urbanization and a country's overall economic and social development.

66. The ICPD Programme of Action explicitly drew attention to the role of men in the family and the need for them to assume responsibilities for child care and household work. It also called on men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour. A better understanding of the joint responsibilities between men and women is a prerequisite if women and men are to be equal partners in public and private life. UNFPA would support sociocultural research on gender roles in family planning decision-making and child rearing. This activity would develop new in-depth qualitative and quantitative methodologies for the collection of data on the socialization of boys and girls. Since the proposed research would involve work in a number of regions, there is the possibility of cross-cultural comparison and interregional collaboration. Such research would facilitate the development of IEC materials and the carrying out of advocacy activities.

67. Population ageing in both developing and developed countries results in fundamental changes in society. Lack of analytical insight and inadequate data have, in many instances, hampered the understanding of the impact of ageing and limited the ability of organizations to meet the needs of this

growing population. Because of the large numbers of people involved, careful planning is required to effectively meet the challenges posed by an ageing population. UNFPA would promote comparative research on this topic and would advocate for the rights of the elderly.

2. Dissemination of information

68. UNFPA would give priority to collecting and analysing data on both national and international policies and legislation related to population and development as a way of influencing legislators to improve national laws relating to population and development and to enforce international conventions. The publication of the *Annual Review of Population Law* would be continued in agreement with Harvard University. The Fund would also help to strengthen population research in developing countries through dissemination of materials on population and development produced by institutions such as the Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED).

3. Training in population and sustainable development

69. UNFPA would continue to support the Global Programme of Training in Population and Sustainable Development, which each year trains some 125 mid-career government officials from developing countries. The overall objective of UNFPA support to the Global Programme is to contribute to the formulation and implementation of integrated national population and development strategies, policies and programmes as well as to international development strategies. The programme would continue to operate at the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum, India; the Cairo Demographic Centre; the Institut National Scientifique et d'Economie Appliquée in Rabat, Morocco; the University of Botswana, Gaborone; and the University of Chile in Santiago. An independent evaluation of the programme is scheduled to take place from June to November 1995.

70. Training workshops in gender, population and development will be conducted in collaboration with Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands and UNIFEM in several pilot countries to develop training modules and materials that can be adapted by national and regional training institutions to suit regional and country needs. An important aim is to strengthen national and regional training institutes through the modification of current training curricula. Support to women's NGOs to promote technical cooperation at the international level as a means of sharing information and expertise and of helping to build national capacity would be an important part of the programme. Assistance would also be provided for management and leadership training for women's NGOs.

B. Regional programmes

1. Sub-Saharan Africa

71. Seventeen sub-Saharan African countries have adopted explicit population policies while 16 more are in the process of adopting them. Nevertheless, much work remains in refining existing policies and in assuring that population factors are taken into account in sectoral development strategies. The

proposed regional programme for sub-Saharan Africa would contribute to efforts to train personnel to meet these challenges as well as to conduct research relevant to the region and its subregions.

72. Research. Several types of data gathering and analysis necessary for the creation of political will and/or the planning and monitoring of programmes would benefit from regional support. Regional research on the interrelated topics of population, urbanization, migration and development would be conducted by such regional institutes as CERPOD. In this context, efforts would be made to clarify the interrelationships between population variables and structural adjustment programmes.

73. Training. Although increasing numbers of demographers are available at the national level, personnel with clear understanding of the relationships between population, development, and the environment are still in relatively short supply. To this end, UNFPA would continue to support such institutions as the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Ghana and the Institut de formation et de recherche demographique (IFORD) in Cameroon for training in demography, including a focus on development issues. Support would also continue to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) to integrate population into the training programme for economists and planners and to organize subregional population and development training programmes. The capacity for conducting censuses in sub-Saharan Africa has increased significantly in recent years, yet heavy personnel turnover and lack of access to recent advances in census technology make regional training a cost-effective approach. Multi-bilateral support for such a programme would be sought.

2. Arab States and Europe

Arab states

74. The 1992-1995 programme contributed significantly to increasing the commitment of the Governments of Arab States to adopt and implement population programmes. The need to strengthen this commitment and to support the process of formulating comprehensive multi-sectoral population policies is essential to achieve lasting improvements in the status of women in the context of an integrated approach to population and sustainable development. The regional programme would continue to promote the concept of sustainable development among parliamentarians, policy and decision-makers, NGOs, and women's and youth organizations in the Arab States. It would also support national efforts aimed at modifying attitudes regarding gender roles among men and women and at improving the status of women.

75. Research. UNFPA would support ESCWA in establishing a network of national population councils at the regional level to exchange experiences and establish strategies for integrating population variables into development planning. UNFPA would also support policy-oriented research on the impact caused by the migration of men on the social and economic status of women and the family, to be undertaken by the Population Research Unit at the League of Arab States. The Fund would also support an in-depth analysis of the results of PAPCHILD in order to extract pertinent policy recommendations and to design appropriate programmes. Support would also be provided to interdisciplinary training workshops on population, environment and development strategies. An important activity will be the

development of a core set of indicators for monitoring progress in eliminating gender bias in population and sustainable development programmes and for measuring the impact of such programmes on the status of women. In addition, UNFPA would continue to support data collection activities in the region through PAPCHILD and the Gulf Family Survey.

76. Dissemination of information. Funds would be provided for the organization of a regional conference on Population and Sustainable Development to be executed by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and co-sponsored by the League of Arab States, ESCWA, and the Cairo Demographic Centre. UNFPA would continue its support to the Centre for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) to strengthen networking among women's organizations in the region and to undertake research and provide training on gender concepts and issues specifically in the area of reproductive health and on the status of women and their participation in economic development. In addition, support would be provided to ESCWA and UNSTAT to work with CAWTAR in developing databases on women in several Arab countries.

77. Training. UNFPA would support a project aimed at building and reinforcing the capacity of Arab NGOs to manage and implement activities and programmes related to population and sustainable development. To improve the quality of population data and their use in development planning, UNFPA would provide support to the Cairo Demographic Centre to organize and conduct a series of short-term training programmes in Arabic specially tailored to the needs of the region and directed towards high-level managers and decision makers.

Europe

78. In Europe, there are two issues of growing concern that would be addressed in the regional programme: international migration caused by political factors, such as armed conflicts and ethnic strife, and by the comparative difference in living standards between countries; and the consequences of changes in population growth and age distribution.

79. Research. UNFPA will support the ECE in studying the process, causes and consequences of international migration within and towards the ECE region. Funds would also be provided to support the ECE's work in the field of population dynamics and household structure, which includes policy-oriented studies on the socio-economic status and living arrangements of elderly people. This research would focus on certain under-studied aspects of population ageing in the countries with economies in transition, specifically those relating to gender roles in old age, and on the status of women.

3. Asia and the Pacific

80. Of particular concern in the Asia and Pacific region are current migration patterns and the status and role of women. In these two areas, UNFPA would support policy-relevant research and analysis and would sponsor seminars and expert group meetings to disseminate the findings. These activities would be implemented in collaboration with organizations with expertise in this sector, including ESCAP and the Asian Urban Information Centre of Kobe, Japan, among others.

81. Because of the changing population age structure in a number of countries in the region, Governments need to develop appropriate policies concerning the welfare and safety of the elderly. UNFPA can assist in the development of policies to improve the situation of the elderly, drawing on the technical assistance of such organizations as ESCAP and JOICFP.

82. UNFPA would support operations research seeking to shed further light on the problem of gender inequity and excess mortality of girl children. This would include analysis of the root causes of gender bias in three Asian countries where fertility decline has been accompanied by selection of male children through abortion. The results of such research would be used to encourage policy measures to counter gender bias.

83. Dissemination of information. UNFPA would continue to support the use of a variety of communication channels and technologies to foster greater commitment to and support for integrated population and development policies and programmes in the region. The UNFPA programme would make use of a wide range of traditional and modern media, including publications, computerized databases and regional networks such as the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network, an ongoing regional project.

84. Training. Despite advances in the region, there are still gaps in terms of the quality and coverage of baseline population information. UNFPA will support training activities in establishing and maintaining population databases and in applying modern information technology. Such activities would be conducted with the assistance of agencies such as ESCAP. UNFPA proposes to continue its support for the fellowship programme at the International Institute for Population Studies, which has provided training to government officials, university teachers and researchers in the region and has been successful in addressing the need to develop and maintain a cadre of population specialists at different levels of government.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

85. Research. UNFPA would continue to support research on such topics as the value of investing in reproductive health and its impact on maternal morbidity and mortality, on the productivity of women and other family members, and on women's rights and well-being. The results of these studies will be used to help countries gain a better understanding of the interlinkages between these issues and to develop policies accordingly.

86. A general framework for socio-demographic data collection and analysis at the municipal level has been developed in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. This approach is considered to be appropriate for other countries in the Central American subregion. A proposal called Plan 2000, which will receive support under the UNFPA regional programme, aims at developing multi-country methodological bases and systems and convening multi-country workshops on municipal planning systems in several countries in Central America.

87. UNFPA would continue its support to the Latin America Demographic Centre (CELADE) for studies aimed at increasing the availability of up-to-date methodologies and technologies in data collection, in particular for conducting censuses and socio-demographic surveys. Such support would also be used to develop methodologies to estimate demographic indicators and trends and to provide training in demographic techniques. UNFPA would also provide assistance for sociocultural research in support of reproductive health policies and programmes, drawing on the recent successes of the CST activities in this area and expanding on them through the regional programme established by the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO).

88. Dissemination of information. Given the important role of legislatures in policy formulation, the regional programme would continue working through the Inter-American Parliamentarian Group (IAPG) to inform and train parliamentarians on how to formulate social policies sensitive to population issues and to negotiate budget allocations for the population sector through national parliamentary systems. UNFPA would collaborate with ECLAC in order to ensure the inclusion of population issues in its publication Social Panorama.

89. Training. UNFPA would continue its support to CELADE to provide intensive training in demographic techniques at the regional level. Activities aimed at enhancing and using the national capacity and the comparative advantages of various countries in the region to develop human-resource training programmes in population and development would be implemented. In this regard, the Fund would promote cooperation with the newly-created Social Development Institute of the Inter-American Development Bank as well as with other regional academic and non-academic specialized institutions.

90. Because of a severe lack of trained people in Central America, UNFPA would undertake special subregional training and institutional development programme aimed at strengthening national capacity to develop and implement programmes. Several Central American institutions, universities, foundations and NGOs have been identified and would be used as centres for training cadres from other countries. Training would be conducted in the organization of reproductive health services; IEC; gender, environment and population; sociocultural and ethnic issues in reproductive health; and the economic aspects of human resource investment.

IV. ADVOCACY

A. Interregional programme

91. UNFPA's primary aim in the area of advocacy is to strengthen and broaden the base of policy support for efforts of concern to the Fund in the areas of health; education; reproductive health, including adolescent reproductive health; the empowerment of women; poverty alleviation; and the environment. Under the proposed programme, UNFPA would continue to work with policy makers, parliamentarians and international NGOs and their networks concerning advocacy in the area of population and sustainable development.

92. Training. UNFPA would provide support for the development of training and advocacy prototype materials on such issues as the education of girls, the enforcement of existing gender equity laws, and the importance of the involvement and commitment of men in contributing to the achievement of gender equity. In this connection, UNFPA would continue to work closely with NGOs and other United Nations entities such as WHO, UNICEF and UNIFEM.

93. Dissemination of information. The Fund would support a review of population education materials in the interest of eliminating gender stereotypes and featuring a positive message regarding equality and equity between the sexes as well as in promoting male responsibility in reproductive health.

94. UNFPA, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and NGOs, would advocate the formulation of programmes to maximize female enrolment in schools and to promote continuing education for women. The Fund would continue its contribution to the Education for All (EFA) initiative, in which UNESCO, the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP are partners with UNFPA. In particular, UNFPA would use the EFA initiative to champion girls' education and to introduce population considerations into EFA activities. The Fund would contribute to the mid-decade review of Education For All through the collection of data on the contribution of population education to the goals of EFA.

95. Globally, UNFPA would continue to collaborate with media representatives in developing effective information programmes for television and radio and in securing coverage of population and development in newspapers and magazines. The Fund would support the development of information materials, print as well as audio-visual, for a variety of audiences on the need for, and examples of, the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. These information materials would be for general distribution as well as for use in seminars, conferences and information campaigns and in support of special activities such as World Population Day. Support would also be provided to parliamentary groups for meetings to establish core supporters for population and development and to international NGOs for the production of population information materials, especially on the need to improve the status of women.

96. With a view to promoting the dissemination of population information, UNFPA would provide support to such NGOs as The Population Council, JOICFP and the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics (IIVRS) to produce publications with worldwide circulations covering reproductive health issues, technical information on contraceptives, studies in family planning and other population-related issues.

97. The State of World Population report, the Fund's major annual publication since 1978, is the most frequently cited publication of UNFPA. It is ranked with UNICEF's State of the World's Children report and UNDP's Human Development Report as an authoritative source of information on social development issues. Two project staff at the Professional level and one General Service staff are required for the research, writing and publication of this report, which is now produced in some 20 languages. The report will add a new section in 1996 to examine progress towards implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Beginning in 1995, the report is also available via the Internet.

B. Regional programmes

1. Sub-Saharan Africa

98. In the area of advocacy, the proposed regional programme for sub-Saharan Africa is designed to reinforce country-level efforts: (a) to convert awareness of population and reproductive health problems into a decisive political commitment to confront such problems; (b) to extend such awareness and commitment to leaders at the central, provincial and local levels; (c) to assure that everyone is made aware of the importance and availability of reproductive health services; and (d) to create awareness of the need for and, hence, acceptance of reproductive health information and services to adolescents.

99. Training. Regional IEC training courses would be organized to include training in advocacy techniques. Additionally, special training in advocacy would be provided to staff of government and non-governmental organizations to promote reproductive health for adolescents, to abolish laws and practices that discriminate against girls and women, and to improve the educational status of girls. UNFPA would encourage the development of national networks of legal clinics stressing reproductive health rights and women's health rights by, inter alia, organizing regional meetings to develop strategies and to exchange information. The assistance of the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) as well as a number of NGOs such as the International Commission of Jurists is anticipated for these activities. Likewise, regional training in the management of income-generating activities for women leaders of small NGOs and community-based organizations would be organized with the assistance of national federations of businesswomen as well as of CEDPA and UNIFEM. The Fund would support a series of regional seminars to develop strategies to change male attitudes that impede women's access to reproductive health services and to equitable participation in development.

100. Dissemination of information. Although most efforts to build leadership consensus behind population programmes must take place at the national level, regional support to institutions such as the Organization for African Unity (OAU) and the ECA is envisioned to enable them to keep the issues of the ICPD before the region's leaders. Together with the World Bank and the African Development Bank, UNFPA would endeavour to focus the attention of key government agencies, especially ministries of planning and finance, on population issues. Similarly, population concerns would be taken up at subregional forums sponsored by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Cooperation Conference (SADCC) and other organizations. The Fund would also provide assistance for regional seminars aimed at developing strategies for mobilizing support for population programmes and exchanging information between key NGOs and community-based organizations.

101. To reach both leaders and general audiences, UNFPA would explore with agencies such as the Pan African News Agency (PANA) and the Union of African National Radio and Television (URTNA) ways to generate more population-related materials for radio, television, and the print media and to assure wider and more systematic circulation of the materials produced. UNFPA would also support

the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children and other NGOs and community-based organizations in building awareness of the negative effects of such harmful practices as female genital mutilation.

2. Arab States and Europe

Arab States

102. All research and studies conducted in the Arab region on the relationship between women's status, population and development have concluded that women's status is the single most important factor influencing fertility and mortality patterns and that improving that status is an important factor in achieving sustainable development. Improving the status of women is therefore the pillar of UNFPA's strategy in the Arab States region. There is an increasing need to inform, educate and involve adolescents and youth in the debate on population, health, environment and sustainable development so that their views are taken into consideration.

103. Training. UNFPA would support a regional workshop to inform and educate youth leaders on such issues as the reproductive health needs of adolescents and the risks related to teen-age pregnancies and childbirth associated with early marriage. Regional workshops would also be organized for influential newspaper journalists and mass media professionals to create awareness of the dynamics of population and sustainable development and on implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

104. Dissemination of information. UNFPA would support, under the umbrella of the Inter-parliamentary Union, the establishment of an Arab Parliamentarian Information Network with the aim of sensitizing parliamentarians, elected leaders and other policy and decision makers to the need for promoting legislative reforms, passing and enforcing laws to improve the status of women and removing legal constraints for efficient implementation of reproductive health programmes. UNFPA would also support the collaborative efforts of ESCWA and the League of Arab States in establishing a regional committee and setting up a mechanism for advocacy and follow-up of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the national level.

105. In view of the influence of the Islamic religion and its interpretation on the status of women, particularly its impact on women's access to reproductive health at the community level, UNFPA would support the production of a simple booklet on Islam, reproductive health and the status of women addressed to reproductive health service providers, agricultural extension agents and social workers. The booklet would serve as a prototype to be adapted to local contexts and translated into local dialects.

Europe

106. Training. UNFPA would organize regional meetings and workshops to promote reproductive health programmes and related IEC among young people in countries with economies in transition emphasizing risks related to teen-age pregnancies, abortion and the spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS.

107. Dissemination of information. UNFPA would continue its support to Entre-Nous, the European family planning magazine. It would also contribute to the dissemination among the countries with economies in transition of state-of-the art knowledge, techniques and methodologies in the field of reproductive health and related IEC by having selected pertinent materials translated into Russian.

108. UNFPA would support ECE's project for establishing a regional committee and setting up a mechanism for advocacy and follow-up of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the subregional and regional levels. The mechanism would also be used to monitor selected demographic trends and population-related policies at the national, subregional and regional levels with a view to assessing the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

3. Asia and the Pacific

109. UNFPA has two major objectives in the area of advocacy in the Asia and Pacific region: (a) to maintain high-level political commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action through exchange of experience and information among countries in the region; and (b) to promote gender equality and equity as important elements of better health for girls and women.

110. Training. UNFPA would organize regional and subregional workshops, seminars and conferences to address the policy issues related to implementing the Programme of Action and to examining ways to achieve gender equality. In connection with the latter, UNFPA would advocate the empowerment of women by developing a holistic approach to women's health, by promoting measures that respond to the employment and training needs of women, and by enlisting the commitment and cooperation of men. In addition, training activities would be conducted to sensitize leaders and policy makers with regard to the value of the girl child and on the need for the education of girls.

111. Dissemination of information. To sustain political commitment to the Programme of Action, UNFPA would continue to support advocacy activities of organizations such as the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Asian Population Development Association.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

112. The objectives of advocacy work in Latin America and the Caribbean are: (a) to strengthen IEC activities directed towards political leaders, policy makers, parliamentarians, journalists and private-sector agents; (b) to clarify the ICPD Programme of Action and broaden political support for its goals; and (c) to strengthen links with a broad array of NGOs involved in social and community development, notably with marginal urban, rural and indigenous populations and with poor women and youth in general. Partners in achieving these goals would be inter-governmental organizations and NGOs as well as appropriate sectoral ministries, financial and budget state secretariats.

113. Training. UNFPA would support meetings of government and NGO participants to discuss such issues as reproductive health and social conditions; youth employment, health and the inter-generational transmission of poverty; and migration, displacement and reproductive health. Discussion would also

focus on the economic return on spending on reproductive health and on the education of girls. The Fund would also provide support to universities and foundations to conduct and publish joint studies on socio-demographic issues affecting women and youth in the region.

114. Dissemination of information. More emphasis than in the past would be placed on the mobilization of regional capacities for mass communication activities. The Fund would promote cooperation with UNESCO in the field of communications and in the development of IEC materials to be used through mass media.

115. UNFPA would help organize symposia with journalists and newspaper editors of the most influential press services in order to create awareness of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Fund would also convene meetings of grassroots organizations, in both rural and urban areas, to discuss common problems and means of mobilizing private and public support for activities in such areas as reproductive health, nutrition and women's rights, among others.

116. A major effort would be made at the subregional level to influence policy makers. This would include the broad dissemination and promotion of information on reproductive health and on the relationship between population structure and trends and socio-economic trends. Linking the ICPD to the Copenhagen and Beijing Conferences -- and to their follow-up -- is a central part of the proposed advocacy work and is part of the proposed regional effort to promote the empowerment of women.

117. UNFPA would seek to strengthen current efforts with the Ibero-American Youth Organization for the introduction of population and reproductive health issues in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Programme for Youth (PRADJAL). For this purpose, a five-year cooperation agreement has been signed. A meeting took place in Cartagena, Colombia, in early 1995 to prepare for these efforts.

V. RECOMMENDATION

118. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the proposed UNFPA intercountry programme for 1996-1999 in the amount of $175.0 million, as contained in document DP/1995/44, to be distributed as follows: $102.0 million for the interregional programme; $28.0 million for the regional programme for sub-Saharan Africa; $12.0 million for the Arab States and Europe; $19.0 million for Asia and the Pacific; and $14.0 million for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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